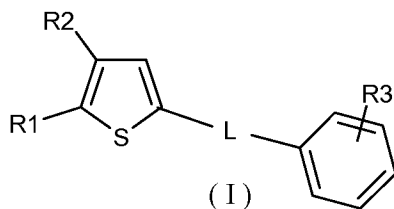


Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented): A compound according to formula (I):



wherein:

R₁ represents NR₄R₅;

R₂ represents CONH₂ or SO₂NH₂;

R₃ represents up to three substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, C₁₋₄alkyl, NH₂, CF₃, OCF₃, O-alkyl, S-alkyl, CN, CHO, SO₂-alkyl, and NO₂;

R₄ represents H or C₁₋₂ alkyl;

R₅ represents C(=A)NHR₆, COR₇, or R₆;

A represents O, S, or N;

R₆ represents H, or C₁₋₂ alkyl;

R₇ represents C₁₋₂ alkyl; and

L represents a linker D-E-D such that

D represents a bond or C₁₋₄ alkyl;



E represents C = C, CONH, NHCO, COO, NH, O, S, or ; and

G and I independently represent H or C₁₋₂ alkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, provided that the compound of formula (I) is not 2-[(aminocarbonyl)amino]-5- {[(4-chlorophenyl)methyl]oxyl-3-thiophenecarboxamide.

2. (Previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 wherein R₂ is CONH₂.

3. (Previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 wherein R₅ is C(=A)NHR₆.

4. (Previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is O.

5. (Previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 wherein E is



6. (Previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

5-[(E)-phenyl]-ethenyl]-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide;

5-[(E)-2-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)- ethenyl]-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acidamide;

5-[(E)-2-(4-Chloro-phenyl)- ethenyl]-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide;

5-Phenethyl-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide;

5-Benzyl-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide;

5-(1-Phenyl-ethyl)-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide;

5-Phenylethynyl-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide;

5-(4-Fluorophenylethynyl)-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide;

5-(4-Ethylphenylethynyl)-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide;

5-(4-Methoxyphenylethynyl)-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide;

5-(4-Chlorophenylethynyl)-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide;

5-(4-Trifluoromethylphenylethynyl)-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide;

5-(3-Trifluoromethylphenylethynyl)-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide; and

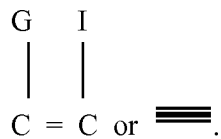
5-Acetylamino-thiophene-2,4-dicarboxylic acid 4-amide 2-[(3-chloro-phenyl)-amide]; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7-11. Canceled

12. (Currently amended): A method ~~according to claim 7~~ of treating a disease characterized by pathological NF-κB activation comprising inhibiting the pathological activation by administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, wherein said disease is rheumatoid arthritis.

13-22. (Canceled).

23. (Previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 wherein E is



24. (Previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.